

THE ALMA RECORD

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ADVERTISING RATES

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THE FIRST BILLIONAIRE

Announcement has been made that Henry Ford is the first Billionaire in the world.

We used to say millionaire almost in a whisper, but now it is so common a thing that some of our citizens apply the term to the poor relation.

In a recent interview Mr. Ford declared that his bank balance was in the neighborhood of \$140,000,000 and that he has no doubt that his assets could be capitalized and sold for a billion dollars. He had previously given out the information that his income and excess profits tax last year was \$76,000,000. Concluding his recent statement he said, "All the money that comes to me goes into new industries. I never invest money in bonds or anything of the kind."

In view of some public comments Mr. Ford had previously made on the subject of the rights of bondholders it may be worth while to take more than a passing glance at the above quoted remark. Mr. Ford is by native talent and training a man of mechanical skill, and of rare ability in the organizing of productive industry. He not only knows how a piece of machinery should be constructed in order to get the best results out of the least material but how to produce that machinery at the lowest cost. He also knows how to put that machine on the market to the best advantage. He not only has capital but he has the ability to use that capital better than any one else could use it for him.

But Mr. Ford makes a grievous mistake when he assumes that others should or can do as he has done. There is many a man of mechanical skill who can conceive a new idea in machinery but who has not the business ability to get together enough capital to finance production. There are also men of earning power as wage earners who have no business ability which would enable them to make by themselves profitable use of their savings. Our present complex industrial organization is made up very largely by bringing together the men of skill in production and the men of accumulated savings.

The man with five or ten thousand dollars of savings to invest cannot go into the business of producing automobiles, or sewing machines, or typewriters, or phonographs; but if enough of these small capitalists put their money together under the management of some man skilled in production they can put into practical operation an industrial enterprise which will not only earn a profit for the manager but a profit for these numerous small capitalists whose savings are thus employed. Without this combination of the capital of one class of people and the skill of another, both the capital and the skill would remain idle. These capitalists must, of course, have some evidence of their interest in the business and that evidence is represented by stocks or bonds.

Because he has capital enough of his own to be the sole owner of his establishment and to have no bonded indebtedness, Mr. Ford recently declared that bonds were a commercial evil and should be thrown away. Under that theory of business organization the saver of small amounts of money would be denied the opportunity to use that capital in useful production. Moreover under Mr. Ford's theory the man who has skill in production but no capital would also be denied the opportunity to become a useful producer on an extensive scale.

THE NEWBERRY CASE

Much has been said and written in regard to the contest of Henry Ford for the seat of Senator Newberry and most of us are glad to know that the case has finally been settled, and that it has been decided that Senator Newberry is entitled to his seat in the Senate, and that it was attained honorably and not by fraud as had been charged.

The Newberry case is one of the most noted cases in the history of the United States, and some things about it are worthy of our consideration. In the first place, a wholesale charge was made of fraud, vote buying, bribery, and illegal use of the mails, Senator Newberry and many of his backers were arrested, and tried in the Federal court, and the case finally went to the Supreme Court. The entire machinery of the department of justice of the United States was set at work to gather evidence of fraud and bring about a conviction. Henry Ford said that he would spend a million dollars to convict Newberry and he probably spent that much in the effort. The ballots were all recounted and the case was tried in the Senate. Absolutely no stone was left unturned to produce every bit of evidence possible to bring about a conviction and the accompanying punishment. Never was a case so thoroughly fought through, every step, with such great bitterness and determination to convict.

The net results are interesting, and to every fairminded man they are convincing. In the federal court, all the charges were dismissed with the exception of the one that more money was expended than was provided for in the statute. And this had already been admitted in a sworn statement of expenses by the Newberry committee.

In the federal court, Newberry and seventeen of his friends were convicted and given sentences by the federal judge. The Supreme Court of the United States reversed the decision of the lower court completely by unanimous vote, and commented upon the errors of the lower court in severe terms, with the result that the entire charges were dismissed.

The votes were recounted in every precinct by a non-partisan committee and absolutely no evidence of fraud was found, which was a credit to Newberry and to the great state of Michigan.

In the Senate the contest was very bitter, practically along party lines, with the result that Newberry was seated in the face of all kinds of charges which were unproven. Newberry's speech was straight-forward and masterly in his own defense, and had much to do with the decision. There is no question but what much of the trial was in the form of persecution rather than prosecution.

The case probably cost the government not far from a million dollars and nothing was accomplished or proven aside from the facts already admitted that the amount of money spent exceeded the statute. Let us hope that we will not be called upon again to spend a million dollars of the people's money to vent a personal spite and further a political quarrel, for the evidence showed that this was all that the Newberry case amounted to.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Ups," "Washington Political and Financial System," etc.; Consulting Political and Financial Analyst to League of Industrial Radicals, and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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WHAT PERSHING THINKS

The appropriations of the five great powers for military and naval purposes for military and naval purposes for the year 1920 above reached a total of \$16,442,251,101, a sum only about \$2,000,000,000 more than the total for the whole fourteen years before the war.

It all comes down to this so far as you are concerned:

Every morning when you go to work, or when you stay at home sick on a working day, or even if you are out of a job, it has been arranged for you to pay your fair share out of what you earn or should earn, of over \$2,000,000 a day for the support of the army and navy. That is the estimate for the fiscal year 1922—over \$5,000,000 a day. I have General Pershing's word for it. You will have to pay it. Five million dollars every working day is a pile of money to spend for insurance against attack. And of course that is not all the cost. What is the big idea? What do you think about it? You will have to pay it. Do you think about it at all? General Pershing does. This is what he thinks:

"As we consider the causes of the World war and comprehend its horrors, every thinking man and woman must feel that measures should be taken to prevent another such calamity. One step in that direction would be to reduce expenditures for armament. Our own estimates for naval and military purposes contemplate an appropriation for the fiscal year 1922 of over \$5,000,000 for every working day in the year. It is a gloomy prospect that the nations plan expenditures greater than ever before in peacetimes."

"It would appear that recent experiences should be enough to convince everybody of the danger of a renewal of this competition. But one nation cannot reduce armaments unless all do. It is time that enlightened people everywhere should undertake to reach some rational agreement which would not only relieve the world of its heavy financial burden but which in itself would go far toward the prevention of war. We are not a warlike people. We do not wish to expand at the expense of any other nation, and we have no designs on anybody. If other people feel the same toward us as toward each other it seems unreasonable that they should be unwilling to consent in principle to some limitation of armaments, to be carried out when other nations succeed in establishing stable governments and are willing to recognize the wisdom of such a course. Otherwise, may we not seriously ask ourselves whether civilization is a failure, and whether we are to regard war as an unavoidable scourge that mankind must suffer?"

"There are other considerations which should prompt us to make every effort to bring about a curtailment of these expenditures throughout the world, particularly in the war-worn countries of Europe. The people of Europe have always been our best customers and are largely dependent upon us for certain necessities. We must look to them to buy the products of our farms, mines and factories. The prosperity of our people depends in no small measure upon the uninterrupted flow of commodities abroad. We have stocks of cotton, wheat and other products greatly in excess of our own requirements, which the people of Europe sorely need but which we cannot sell and they cannot buy because their fiscal systems have broken down, their currencies have depreciated, and their purchasing power is exhausted."

"The first step to take in the rehabilitation of the finances of all these countries is to reduce the cost of government so that expenses will not exceed the incomes. Expenditures must be lowered everywhere if financial stability is to be restored and if the nations are ever to pay their debts. Until stability is restored none can have prosperity that comes from a free and uninterrupted flow of products from one country to another. But this cannot be done if huge sums continue to be appropriated for the maintenance of large armies and large navies."

"The safety of humanity in the future, the safety of the happiness and the prosperity of the race—all appeal alike for an early consideration of the question of limited armaments."

Broadly speaking, it is the man who profits, and not the simple average man, who endures, who is behind all this movement for ever increasing armament. If you doubt this, just go out in your own neighborhood and ask men who were actually in the war, who saw service in the line, whether they want any more of it.

Scientific Query.

When we read about monkey stars getting salaries of \$1,000 a week in the movies we wonder whether evolution is what it has been cracked up to be.

To the Voters of Gratiot County: I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for nomination at the coming primaries for County Drain Commissioner on the Republican ticket.

(Political Advertisement) Luther Carter, (Political) Ithaca, Mich., EFD 4

Michigan Editors on Newberry

NEWBERRY AND MICHIGAN WIN.

In refusing to unseat Truman H. Newberry, in rebuking the dishonest and vicious slanders that have been spread broadcast against Michigan and its people, the senate of the United States did only its plain duty. There was no excuse either in law or in morality for any other action. And insofar as the senate hesitated and fell short of unanimity in the vote of exoneration, it lapsed from the high standard of intelligence and square dealing the country has a right to expect from it.

It is true, the senate was justified in expressing itself on the subject of big campaign expenditures by adopting the Willis resolution, even if that resolution was introduced to strengthen those who were weak kneed in the face of efforts at intimidation. Nobody pretends that the spending of hundreds of thousands of dollars in the course of a senatorial campaign is desirable or healthful, even if every penny of the outlay is for legitimate objects, as was the case in the Newberry campaign. But that resolution, is considered a proof of error in judgment, not of lapse from honesty, and only willful perversion can distort it into anything else. We in Michigan know, that there is a double edge to Senator Norris's false and insulting charge that the Michigan senatorship in 1918 was "for sale to the highest bidder," and that the extraordinary expenditures of the Newberry workers was called forth by an extraordinary emergency, the necessity of fighting the best advertised man in America, who also was a presidential portage.

But though the senate in the end did what right and justice required, and it is significant that the principal defenders of Mr. Newberry and of Michigan were men of nationwide reputation for character and courage—nevertheless, by no stretch of the imagination can the preliminaries nor the narrow margin of favorables majority be considered creditable to that body. If the question of the condemnation or exoneration of Senator Newberry had depended only on consideration of the record, he would have been given a clean bill of health long ago by an overwhelming majority of his fellow, and the whole matter would have been forgotten by this time. Unfortunately that is not what happened.—Detroit Free Press.

NEWBERRY IS SEATED

By narrow majority, the United States Senate has finished the Newberry case in a manner long prophesied by the partisan character of the entire proceeding. Senator Newberry—the individualistic Republican—is approved by his party colleagues in the upper house. He wins his long, single battle to retain his questionable commission; and—with his term now half gone—he can for the first time give himself over to the real responsibilities of his office. But the thing that has been known colloquially as "Newberryism"—which, in a word, means the expenditure of grossly extravagant sums of money to commercialize and exploit politics—is disapproved and condemned, not only by the Senator's opponents but also by his senatorial friends. It is condemned in the report of his Republican friends upon the Committee which facilitated his victory. It is condemned even by a last-minute amendment that was attached, by his friends, to the resolution which permits him to fulfill his term. The outcome of this long travail, therefore, is two-fold. It differentiates between the man and his campaign. The Senator continues on—and The Herald wishes him the finest possible record in the remainder of his term. But cash-register politics is ordered to stop; and if anything can help to make it stop, this case will militate toward that desirable end—an end to which The Herald will continue to dedicate its resources—Grand Rapids Herald.

OBITUARY

Harold Edward Baird, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Baird, 203 Elmwood avenue, died January 14. He was born June 9, 1921. The funeral services were held at the Baird home Monday, Rev. Shouler officiating. Interment was made at Riverside cemetery.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Having been solicited by a number of my friends throughout the District, I have decided to become a candidate on the Republican ticket at the Primary, for the office of State Senator for this the 23rd Senatorial District, and most respectfully ask the support of all Republicans of the District, especially those who approved of my work done in the House of Representatives in the years 1913 and 1915. Newell Smith, (Political Advertisement) Frank R. Howes, (Political) Ithaca, Mich., EFD 4

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY

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We would be pleased to show you samples of Canaan coal. Brown-

Ward Co., phone 27-6016.

New Books at the College Library

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Following is a list of some of the new books, recently received at the Alma College library:

D'Arion and Gielley, La correspondance élémentaire. - 1920.

Bacon, Corinne, South America, Political outline. 1917. Ref.

Bay Psalm Book, Facsimile of 1640 edition. 1903. Ref.

Bek, E. W., Americanization of Edward Bek, 1921.

Bentwick, A. E., American Public Library. 1917.

Briese and Dickman, LeCercle François a Poëvure. 1920.

Brown University Library. Plays of today. (List) 1921. Ref.

Brunin, J. ed., Educational problems in college and university. 1921. Ref.

Bullard, Arthur, The A B C's of disarmament and the Pacific problem. 1921.

Burchenal, Elizabeth, Folk Dances of Denmark. 1915.

Burchenal, Elizabeth, Folk Dances of Finland. 1915.

Carnegie endowment for international peace. Year book, for 1921.

Carnegie, Luigi, Disarmament conference at Washington will be a failure. 1921.

Cattell, J. M. ed., American men of science. 1921. Ref.

Chalf, L. H., Music for exercises in dancing. c. 1918.

Chalf, L. H., Text book of dancing, vol. 1 c. 1917.

Davidson, H. A., Studies in modern plays. 1917. Ref.

Greatest Highway in the World. c. 1921.

Galsworthy, John, Six short plays. 1921.

Gaylord brothers, The red book; or, the A B C's of library methods. 1921.

Geil, W. E., Great wall of China. 1920.

Girl scouts, Campyard hol. 1920.

Granger, Edith, Index to poetry and literature. 1918. Ref.

Knickerbocker, E. ban B. ed., Plays for classroom interpretation. 1921.

Macheth-Evans glass company. Fifty years of glass making. 1919.

Macgowan, Kenneth, Theatre to tomorrow. 1921.

Marken, M. G., The Bible in Brownings. 1903. Ref.

Melle, Contemporary French writers. 1894.

Michigan, Public domain commission. Proceedings 1920-1921.

Mirrors of Downing Street. 1921.

Mirrors of Washington. 1921.

Morris, L. B. ed., Public and parlor readings 1898.

Mooey, W. W., Travel & among the Amazons. 1920.

Moses, M. J., American dramatists. 1917.

National association of manufacturers. Open encyclopedia. 1921.

National educational association. Addresses and proceedings. 1920. Ref.

New York drama league. Plays for amateurs. (List) 1921. Ref.

Notestein, F. N., Ophelia of Michigan. 1905.

O'Neill, E. G., Emperor Jones. 1921.

Pennsylvania Public Service Commission. Annual report. 1920-21.

Perry, J. L., The Bible in Brownings. 1903. Ref.

Pratt, Frank, The Christian Science Reading Room located at 113½ West Superior street is open daily except Sundays from 2:30 to 5 o'clock.

The public is cordially invited to the services and to the reading room.</